



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 509

January Session, 2011

Substitute Senate Bill No. 1105

Senate, April 13, 2011

The Committee on Education reported through SEN. STILLMAN of the 20th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE DISSOLUTION PROCESS OF REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 10-63c of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 [Within] Not later than one year after its appointment, the
4 committee shall prepare a written report that includes: (1) Its
5 recommendation concerning the advisability of a withdrawal or
6 dissolution; (2) a determination of the value of the net assets of the
7 regional district; (3) an apportionment of the net assets to each member
8 town on the basis of the ratio which the total average daily
9 membership of such town since its membership in the regional district
10 bears to the total average daily membership reported to the State
11 Board of Education by the regional board of education up to and
12 including the last such report; (4) a plan for settlement of any
13 obligations and the transfer of property from the regional school
14 district to the member town school districts; (5) a timetable for the

15 orderly withdrawal or dissolution of the regional district and
 16 establishment of local boards of education if none exist; (6) the
 17 question to be determined by the referenda; and (7) such other matters
 18 as the committee deems necessary. The provisions of sections 10-43
 19 and 10-45, except as provided below, shall apply to the procedures for
 20 submission of the plan to the State Board of Education, action by such
 21 board, presentation of such plan to the member towns, action by such
 22 towns and the dissolution of the committee. The establishment of any
 23 new local board of education shall be in accordance with chapter 146.
 24 Upon an affirmative vote in each member town [, or, in the case of a
 25 regional school district that does not have a high school, any of the
 26 member towns,] the regional board of education and member towns
 27 shall cooperatively implement the plan for dissolution or withdrawal
 28 of a member town, except (A) in the case of a regional school district
 29 that does not have a high school, upon an affirmative vote in any of the
 30 member towns, or (B) in the case of a regional school district that is
 31 composed of three or more towns with a combined population of six
 32 thousand or less and has held at least two referenda on the issue of
 33 dissolution pursuant to this section prior to the effective date of this
 34 section, upon an affirmative vote of a majority of the voters voting in
 35 such regional school district in a subsequent referendum on the issue
 36 of dissolution pursuant to this section held after the effective date of
 37 this section and on or before July 1, 2012.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	10-63c
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ED *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: Indeterminate

Municipal Impact: Indeterminate

Explanation

The fiscal impact of the bill is indeterminate as it depends upon the programmatic choices made by the member districts post dissolution. The bill, which specifies that a district composed of three or more towns with a combined population of 6,000 or less can be dissolved, or a member town can withdraw, if the majority of voters in that district vote to do so.

The bill applies only to Region 11, consisting of the towns of Chaplin, Hampton, and Scotland. It is estimated that based on several direct cost factors, such as: total cost of education, cost of transportation, cost of special education, cost of middle school building projects, tuition rates at schools willing to accept district children, and total cost projections by town for various education scenarios, there will be a potential savings to the towns, ranging from less than \$100,000 per year to over \$500,000 per year.

Additionally, there are several ancillary cost factors that are unknown at this time, including: supplementary health insurance costs to district towns for both school and town employees due to smaller insurance pool size for each district town, potential impact of certain teachers exercising rights related to the closing of a regional school district, and bumping, and the cost of maintaining the existing high school and middle school buildings and grounds. The outcome of these ancillary factors could result in costs that are greater to the towns, than the projected savings of the direct cost components. It is

anticipated that if the ancillary costs outweighed the direct savings, the town would not agree to dissolve.

The Out Years

The fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the rate of inflation.

Sources: Report of the Regional District Eleven Dissolution Study Committee

OLR Bill Analysis**sSB 1105*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE DISSOLUTION PROCESS OF REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill establishes a special voting threshold for dissolving a regional school district that meets certain criteria.

The general statutory procedure for dissolving regional districts requires a majority vote in favor of dissolution in simultaneous referenda held in each of the district's member towns. The bill changes the required affirmative vote to dissolve a regional school district that has (1) three towns with a combined population of 6,000 or less and (2) held at least two referenda on dissolution, as required by law, before the bill's effective date. Under the bill, such a district must dissolve if an overall majority of its voters, instead of a majority in each town, approve dissolution in a new referendum held between the bill's effective date and July 1, 2012.

The bill applies only to Region 11, consisting of the towns of Chaplin, Hampton, and Scotland. Region 11 covers grades 7-12 and has one school, Parish Hill High School.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

COMMITTEE ACTION

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 29 Nay 3 (03/25/2011)